Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

Dr. Robert W. Shaw, Jr.
HTAC Chair
P.O. Box 1299
Center Harbor, New Hampshire 03226

Dear Chairman Shaw,

Thank you for your March 2012 letter to Energy Secretary Chu transmitting the 2011 Annual Report of the Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Technical Advisory Committee (HTAC). We appreciate the Committee's input and agree that progress made in bringing hydrogen and fuel cell technologies to the marketplace has been very impressive. As the Committee has indicated, the achievements of the Fuel Cell Technologies Program have placed hydrogen and fuel cells in position to be an important component of a sustainable and secure energy future.

In support of President Obama's all-of-the-above energy strategy to reduce America's reliance on foreign oil, the Department of Energy is committed to maintaining its leadership in advancing its portfolio of alternative energy technologies and strongly believes in the role of these technologies in advancing economic prosperity. The Secretary and other senior Department officials will continue to promote the advantages of hydrogen and fuel cells as a critical component of this portfolio. In the last year, we have published over 70 news articles, hosted several public webinars on a range of hydrogen and fuel cell-related topics, and have released a number of statements promoting the success of the Program's work. In January, Secretary Chu held a high level roundtable meeting in Detroit with executives from the U.S. and global automotive industry. Hydrogen and fuel cells were a key topic of the meeting, and the Secretary reiterated the progress that has been made.

The Department is focusing on hydrogen and fuel cell activities that will continue to yield technology advancements in key areas—including ongoing reduction in the cost and improvement in the durability of fuel cells, reductions in the cost of hydrogen produced from renewable energy sources, and improvements in systems for storing hydrogen. Rebalancing the EERE portfolio in FY2013 will allow the Department to focus on near-term transportation technologies while maintaining a strong effort in hydrogen and fuel cells for the 2015 timeframe and beyond. Also note that we plan to leverage funding from the Vehicle Technologies and Advanced Manufacturing programs in relevant areas such as carbon fiber and fuel cell manufacturing, subject to appropriations.

We greatly appreciate HTAC's time and dedication, helping us work to promote America's energy security through reliable, clean, and affordable energy. As your 2011 Annual Report indicates, hydrogen and fuel cells are an integral part of a portfolio of technologies that will help

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us meet these goals. I look forward to engaging further with the Committee as it continues its advisory role. Thank you for your dedicated service.

Sincerely,

David T. Danielson, PhD
Assistant Secretary
Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy